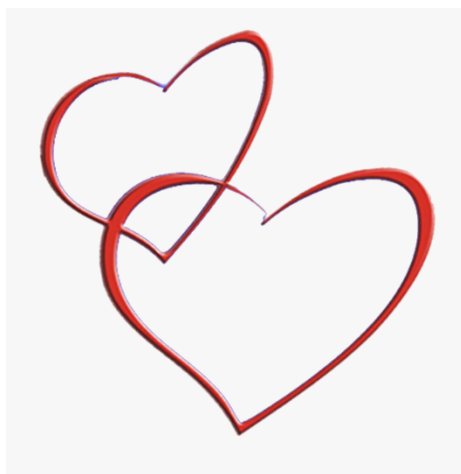


FEBRUARY 2020



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.”



³ **A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'**
- Isaiah 40:3



Greetings, friends at Bethlehem.

I have just returned from a continuing education trip and am happy to share that you now have a "WooFeR" in your midst. No, that is not a "Christian canine," but a two-legged pastor who by the grace of God (and a lot of study) passed his 80-hour, 10-Day training to become a **Wilderness First Responder**, or "WFR"! My time at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Tucson was as intense as it was eye-opening and led by the Spirit. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take such a course, and I hope to utilize that training this year to share some wilderness goodness with you in God's Creation.

Here are my **"wilderness hopes"** for this summer and fall:

- **A short, 2 or 3-night backcountry camping trip to North Manitou island**, off the shores of Sleeping Bear, possibly sometime in mid to late June 2020. This may be a Y2A endeavor, but also open to all ages. Some backpacking and/or camping experience would likely be required, and it would hopefully include some volunteer work with the park service. Some details have already been discussed in the Y2A committee, and a "first draft" plan will hopefully be announced soon!
- **A 5-day retreat to the desert**, following in the footsteps of our Lenten journey this spring. The idea is to have a mid-November 2020 sojourn to the Spirit in the Desert retreat center in Carefree, Arizona, with a side-trip to the state park where the movie about Jesus' "Last Days in the Desert" (2016) was filmed. Though it would not require any backcountry packing experience, the trip would require comfort with car camping and some light hiking. Though participants would be responsible for the bulk of expenses, the camping element will cut down on costs. More details forthcoming.

This leads me to my next topic: **Lent!** Equally exciting is the opportunity we have together to study scripture together and explore the meaning and experience of Christ's "Last Days in the Desert" each Wednesday and Sunday morning in Lent. Our focal point will be our study of the 2016 movie by that name, as we too mirror Christ's journey into the wilderness of our faith lives and Jesus' post-baptism ministry. We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, and continue through March and the Holy Week of April 5-12th. More details will be available in the March STAR. Guiding us along the way again this year will be a Lenten Devotional, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries, adapted to our **Lent 2020 Theme: "Desert Highway: Deliver Us These Days of Lent"**

Finally, as mentioned in the January STAR, two big efforts are underway at Bethlehem: the **Worship Renewal Task Force** will gather input this month from the Saturday worshippers to formulate a plan to make Saturdays more sustainable for the staff and congregation. In participation for **the synod's REVIVE visioning program this spring**, the Bethlehem Visions Committee will be reaching out to the congregation soon to see who has the strong interest in joining a four-person team (including the pastor) for this two-year initiative. More details will also be shared in March, when we know more about the synod's timeline and other aspects of our vision work.

But now, perhaps it's time to breathe in the bold welcome and freedom of the gospel and enter this new season with an adventurous heart. Bethlehem has exciting days ahead!

In peace,
Pr. Paul

President's Corner

February 2020

Rethinking Our Projects and Needs

Greeting to All,

Over the past 6 months or so Council has had a number of conversations on how to handle the shrinking number of people on some Committees. I say some because there are a few Committees that appear to be holding their own, while some are struggling. It is true that the number of members in our Congregation has gotten smaller but upon closer inspection almost everyone in our current Congregation is involved in some project or program. Kudos to all that help out. The question is what do we do going forward to have enough people for help and support.

I had a conversation this past December with a person regarding why we always seem to have a challenge to find people to join Committees. The response was "many people do not want to join Committees because they feel that once they are on a Committee they can never leave and it is permanent". I did an unscientific survey of some members of the church and discovered many felt the same way.

Perhaps now is the time to rethink our approach as many of you feel that you are called upon time after time as if you are an employee of the church. Instead, many of you want to pick a project of your choosing that fits your schedule, help out and then step back until you find something else to work on. With fewer members in the Congregation a project or need oriented approach may be what is needed. While this concept has yet to be discussed in detail, it seems we may already be heading in this direction.

Let me provide for you an example, one that I am familiar with, Fellowship meals. We have a great group of members that show up during Advent and Lent to prepare meals. They are a dedicated group of members and they do enjoy helping and having fun. Some of our Fellowship group like to travel, head to sunny climates in the winter and still have jobs and are not always available. It is also true that doing meals year after year does wear on people and quite frankly some are just not able to do the work any longer. This leaves fewer people to do a lot of work.

In a project oriented program other members of the church may be able to help. Perhaps one of the small groups could prepare a meal one evening, our youth could prepare a meal, or maybe a group of individuals would like to help out one evening which in turn would help out and provide some relief to those who may need to step back.

This is just an example of how a project or need oriented program may help. As I said earlier there are details to work through. Now it is up to you. Please take a moment to let me know your thoughts, suggestions or ideas, positive or negative. We are trying to make sure we have the help and support we need to keep BLC active and growing.

One last item to mention, especially to our Gentlemen of the Church. Valentine's Day is February 14th, do not forget that special someone, particularly if you forgot last year. There is still time.....
Chuck

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

Minutes from the Church Council Meeting of December 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chuck Ardingo, President, at 6:04 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER: Paul Wiemerslage, Love the Lord and Love the Environment

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

VISITOR/S OR CONGREGATIONAL COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda for the 12/17/2019, motion to approve by Leonard Graf, seconded by Cindy Monroe, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING: Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Cindy Monroe, seconded by Mark McPherson. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chuck Ardingo, President: 1) Chuck stated how much he appreciates Council and their hard work. 2) He was then giving up his time for the 2020 Budget discussion. 3) Phil Anderson mentioned, thanking the Congregation for their Pledges, all of Council agreed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul Busekist: 1) Pastor mentioned he would yield most of his time to the Budget discussion. 1) Pastor informed Council he would use the monies as budgeted for his 2019 Continuing Education. 2) Pastor stated that his 2020 Continuing Education would be early in the year for Wilderness First Responder Certification. This will allow him to lead a wilderness retreat for adults of Bethlehem. 3) Trapp Grant received of \$750. 4) Pastor spoke regarding Bethlehem's part in the funeral for Pastor Jim Helman. Chuck stated there were no issues. Cindy asked how many attended, Pastor thought 250 at the service and 165 lunch attendees. There was a baby gate in the nursery that was broken during the service but no real issues. The funeral was a partnership with Feast of Victory of Acme.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Katie Fox: Prior to the meeting Katie provided Council with her November and YTD Financial Summary and various reports along with the updated 2020 Budget numbers for review, in an effort not to consume too much time reviewing the reports during the Council meeting. Katie asked for questions prior to giving her comments. 1) Katie spoke on the November attendance of 147 average versus 2018, November numbers of 153. 2) Katie mentioned that the November income was \$38,626 which was \$9,800 over budget. 3) Also, that the expenses were \$682 below budget. 4) 2020 Budget Discussion, based on the 2020 pledges we are now able to look at a balanced budget with a surplus of \$3,400ish for 2020. The intent for the surplus will be to look at staff increases for 2020. Katie mentioned that we as Council and the Finance Committee will look at the 1st Quarter of 2020 to ensure that the pledges are coming in as pledged in an effort to avoid another deficit budget situation. 5) There was further discussion on various account categories, for example non-Operating Income should be under the 41000 account category. Also, discussion on the additional income avenues, Sun Radius and the Nursery Assistant staffing. Leonard Graf motioned that we accept the 2020 Budget as presented to present to the Congregation. Jan Stretlien, seconded. The motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR: A motion to approve the various Committee Reports was made by Tim Fox and seconded by Mark McPherson, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2020 BUDGET: Previously covered by Katie Fox, Treasurer.

B. Pro forma: Katie spoke regarding the use of a pro forma expenditure application for expenses over \$1,000 that must be approved prior to presenting to Council. Paul Wiemerslage mentioned as an example the Folding Machine for the office.

NEW BUSINESS

A.SYNOD REVIVE PROGRAM: Pastor Paul, spoke regarding the Revive program through the Synod which is a 2 year process, with a Team representing Bethlehem which would include Pastor Paul and 3 yet to be named members. There would be 6 meetings throughout the 2year process. Leonard Graf motioned that we as Council support the Revive Program and move forward. Seconded by Cindy Monroe. Motion carried.

B.COUNCIL MINUTES: Chuck mentioned that the Council minutes have been placed in the STAR each month as of late. There was discussion on the content of the minutes in the STAR. Leonard Graf motioned that we continue to place the full Council minutes in the STAR. Seconded by Jan Stretlien. Motion carried on a voice vote. With one member of Council opposed.

C.CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 12, 2020. Chuck asked that all of Council try and attended. The snow date would be the following Sunday, January 19th.

D.WORSHIP REVIVAL: Pastor Paul mentioned this topic should really be called "Worship Renewal", this is mainly regarding the Saturday Worship Service. 1) There was a mention of a small increase being possible in Supply Pastor expense. 2) Phil asked if Pastor would be preaching once a month on Saturday. Preferably that would be the case. 3) There would be communion twice a month on Saturdays. 4) Pastor spoke of a Worship Renewal Committee to come up with a plan for the Saturday Service. 5) Leonard Graf motioned to establish the Worship Renewal Committee and this was seconded by Nancy Downer. Motion carried.

E.MEMBERSHIP REMOVAL: Cindy Monroe motioned that we remove the following members from the active member rolls as they have moved, changed Church's, etc. To be removed: Sara Kane, Denyse Everett, Tom and Janet Denton and LoAnn and Mike Vande Leest. Seconded by Leonard Graf. Motion carried.

F.RENTAL HOUSE: Chuck Ardingo: Mentioned that the rental house is now ready to rent. He motioned that we have Carl Lehto contact the Rental Management Company to move forward in looking for a renter. Katie Fox, seconded. Motion carried.

G.JANITORIAL NEEDS: Leonard Graf motioned that we advertise for a new janitor. This motion was seconded by Cindy Monroe. Motion carried. It was mentioned that we have a person to fill in temporarily.

H. PRESERVE AND PROTECT GOD' S EARTH: Paul Wiemerslage spoke regarding a Webcast taking place at Bethlehem. The speaker would be from Calvin College and would be speaking on the preservation of our lakes and God' s Earth. Costs would be minimal and there would be 10 – 25 attendees from various Congregations in the Traverse City area. This would take place on Friday, 1/10. The time would be during the lunch hour. Council all agreed to have Paul moved forward with hosting the Webcast.

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: Motion to adjourn by Cindy Monroe and seconded by Jan Stretlien, motion carried. Adjournment at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Fox, Council Secretary

ABRIDGED WITH ANNIE: A SUMMARY OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY...

Good Hello, Friends! February is upon us and it's going to be a blast! This is a fun month—not just because of all the discounted chocolate the day after Valentine's Day. The Valentine's Day holiday is always a good reminder for me how much God loves us all—every single day!

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS ...

From **Friday, February 7th to Sunday, February 9th** one of our youth and myself will be heading to good old Kalamazoo, MI to take part in the **Great Lakes Youth Gathering!** I'm so thankful that we have the opportunity to gather and worship together. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we travel.

The **Annual Ski Trip** will also be taking place on **Sunday, February 9th**. We will be heading to Crystal Mountain immediately **after the 11AM service** and it will be a grand old time!

Middle School Night will take place on **Wednesday, February 12th** right here at Bethlehem at **5PM**. We will be busting out the Wii and potentially Playstation and playing some of the kid's favorites! Friends are welcome and encouraged for this fun-filled time but please reach out to me in regards to game guidelines.

It's never good to take yourself too seriously, so we're not going to! For our **High School Night** on **Saturday, February 15th** we are going to dress to impress on in our finest attire and go to a cheap restaurant of the group's choice. Then maybe some ice-cream afterward, if we're feeling brave. We will be meeting at Bethlehem at **5PM**.

Even though Valentine's Day will have taken place earlier in the month our **BLUES** kids still want to spread the love! On **Friday, February 28th** we will meet in the kitchen at Bethlehem at **5PM**. to decorate cookies for members who cannot leave their homes and to remind them that they are loved.

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

As we launch into February I ask that you continue to keep Bethlehem's youth and family in your prayers as they continue their school year and that they continued to be blessed by God's miraculous grace. That everything they do is for the love of Christ always.

*"Let all that you do be done in love."
(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

Cheerfully in Christ,

Annie Slabaugh

Director of Youth and Outreach

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Traverse City



Your membership/evangelism

committee has a sheet of new members to add to your church directory. You can pick it up from a tray by the mail boxes and close to the box for the STAR.

Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome those who are new to our congregation in the past six months.



STEWARDSHIP

At the January 12th Congregational Meeting the Church Council, Finance and Stewardship Committees gave a standing ovation to the congregation for their pledged financial support of Bethlehem's ministry in 2020. If you were not there, we give an ovation to you now! Thank you for the response that you made. Thank you for sharing abundantly. Thank you for making a pledge. All of us can celebrate in the commitments that were made to support the ministry of Bethlehem in 2020. From here we all go forward trusting and praying that God will bless us so our pledges can be fulfilled. Together we share the blessings that God has, and will, pour out on us! Thanks be to God!

STAR and Bulletin Deadlines

To be sure that your article or announcement is in STAR or Bulletin issue that you want, please note the following deadlines:

STAR: by the third Wednesday of the month

Bulletin: by the Wednesday before each weekend

Submission by email is preferred (admin@bethlehemtc.org) with either the word STAR or Bulletin in the subject line. Please write exactly what you want in the article or announcement. Be sure to include all pertinent information about your event, i.e. dates, time, location, etc. You can put it in the body of the email or as an attachment as a Word doc or .pdf. Also, please include the month(s) for the STAR issue or the date(s) for the Bulletin issue that you need your article or announcement included. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Oster when she works in the office on Thursdays. Also note that if you want an announcement on the weekly PowerPoint, please send to annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org.

December 2019 Financial Summary

Results for the Month:

December income of \$38,448 was \$1,581 over budgeted income of \$36,867. December expense of \$36,018 was \$4,640 over budgeted expense of \$31,371.

December was budgeted to have a surplus of \$5,489, but BLC actually had a \$2,431 surplus.

Full Year Financial Results:

Fiscal 2019 income of \$398,320 was \$24,889 above budgeted income of \$373,431.

Fiscal 2019 expense of \$387,491 was \$6,852 over budgeted expense of \$380,639.

We budgeted to have a deficit of \$7,208 at the end of the year. We ended December with a surplus of \$10,829 which means we are \$18,037 ahead of where we budgeted to be at this point in time. The strong contributions in October and November in combination with lower than budgeted expenses in August and September brought the church into the black.

The next XYZ gathering will be on Thursday February 20th. Pot luck lunch at noon. Michigan State Police Trooper David Prichard will do a program on Aging Drivers and Their Families. Thoughts and tips on how to be safer while driving, bicycling, motorcycling and walking. All are welcome.



The Wednesday Morning Drop-In Bible Study is studying the “good news” of Matthew. Come. Bring your bible and share at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings in the Youth Room. All are welcome.

Christian Education News

February 2020



Calling All Musicians

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 15-30" typically twice per month with very simple songs.

Please prayerfully consider this service ministry for our children.

LENTEN NIGHTS: EVERY WEDNESDAY

Lenten Nights will begin soon!

March 4th

March 11th

March 18th

March 25th

April 1st

Christian Ed. will have special activities for children during the adult worship time.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Dive in with us!!!

Make plans to join us

at

"Great Bible Reef"

July 20th to July 24th

this summer!

We need MANY volunteers in MANY areas ☺



Teachers needed for Sunday School

Pre-K

K-2nd

3rd-6th

This very brief commitment runs between services 9:45am-10:45am and simple lessons are pre-scripted with all materials.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

FEBRUARY, 2020

BE MY VALENTINE...



What can I give to Jesus on this special Valentine's Day?
How can I tell Him I'll love Him and follow Him, come what may?
How can I show I need Him? Should I send a red heart with lace?
How can I thank Him enough for His sacrifice, love and grace?
What Valentine can I give Him, my adoration to impart?
I'll give to Him what He wants the most; I'll yield to Him my heart!

Unknown

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF WOMEN OF ELCA

The 22th triennial convention will be held July 14-16, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. This convention is the highest legislative authority within the organization. For further information, please check the WELCA website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD MEETINGS: February 2nd, March 1st, April - TBA

SPRING FLING: May 8th

FEBRUARY GATHER BIBLE STUDY: Our second session on the study "We are called!" is titled: Disciples of Christ. Jesus invites us all to take up the cross and follow him written by Kathryn Kleinhans.

Blessings Always!

Nancy Ammann, WELCA President



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

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Latest News from Alexis Steig – Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM)

Alexis reflected on her Christmas celebration in Serbia. She was included in many events that took place. You can read about her news from Serbia at <https://godandgoulash.home.blog>

Below are a few excerpts from her latest newsletter. Alexis has noticed that many of the girls she works with are getting to know her better and therefore, she is building trust with them. That leads to more sharing and the beginning of friendships.

Giving Is Better – “I had the opportunity to visit a Roma settlement in Jarak . . . to deliver presents to the children there. We successfully distributed over 50 shoe-box gifts and made a lot of families (children especially) very happy.” (Shoe-box Gifts is a Samaritans Purse project which works across the world to see that children receive gifts at Christmas).

Family is Everything – “One of the most special things about holidays in Serbia is how intentional people are about being with their families. . . . While no family is perfect, almost everyone I spoke to felt the importance of spending time with loved ones. . . . They set aside that special time just to be with their people – and it wasn't about the stuff.”

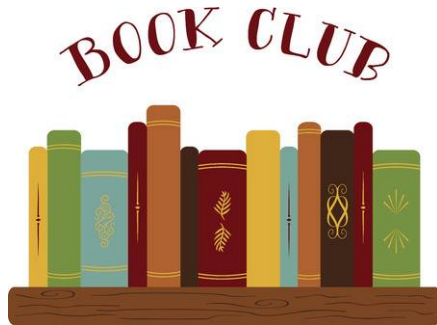
Conclusion – “At this point in the year, I am finally starting to be more confident with my Serbian abilities. It is relatively easy here to speak English . . . but I have been trying to default to Serbian more often. . . . Blessings to you and thank you for taking the time to read! Peace be with you. Alexis”



Novi Sad, Serbia – on the Danube River

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

DEADLINE FOR COUNCIL REPORTS IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12



Bethlehem Book Club: Our club continues to meet the 4th Tuesday at 5:30 at the Cottage Café. The book for February 25 is *The Library Book*. All are welcome. You can choose to eat and drink something or just share in the discussion.

Finger Food Fellowship: Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who have signed up to bring treats on Sunday morning. This is an equal opportunity event. Please feel free to add your name to the sign up and bring anything that only requires a napkin. Hungry bellies appreciate that little bite of something.



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

From the Executive Director of WELCA, Linda Post Bushkofsky

Thank you for supporting the ministries of the Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$1,054.91. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Thanks to your support, Women of the ELCA is always busy with life-changing ministry throughout the church. Synodical women's organizations are busy with conventions, gatherings, and all kinds of other programs. Your 21 elected church-wide board members and 10 church-wide staff members are preparing for the Eleventh Triennial Convention – and you know how much is going on in your congregational units!

Our Gathering, coming up in Phoenix in July of 2020, will be a life-changing event for all who take part. Will I see you there? I hope so! Take a look at www.welcatg.org for more information – and to register for the Gathering.

Your generosity make this all possible, and so much more. Thank you. To learn more about our ever-growing work together, please see www.womenoftheelca.org. Your giving really makes a difference. Thank you.



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 Concern



The Power of Prayer

*Richard Fernholz, Nancy Smith, Hazel Lautner, Tom Miller, Margie Whitney,
Jo Hasse, Ruth Boerman, Ellie Tacke, Bev Attwood, Roy Stowe,
Priscilla Thompson, Marleen Baesch, Alvin Kober, Bill Gourdie, Lynn Hoyt,
Jan Waisanen, Molly Eastman, Harper Wiemerslage,
Roy & Marilyn Dumond, Roy Weller, and Brenda Denoyer*

Grand Traverse Pavilions: Bev Attwood, Bill Gourdie

Homebound: Hazel Lautner, Ruth Boerman, Marleen Baesch

Traverse Manor: Margie Whitney, Marianne Bradford

French Manor LaFranier: Jo Hasse, Roy Stowe

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...

HONORING GOD'S CREATION



Three ways that we can protect the environment as we get rid of the unneeded.

(1) Use the same precautions in disposing of over the counter medications as you do for prescription medicine. The January Star described ways to safely get rid of prescription medicine. A small study was done on why crayfish were becoming less aggressive. It was found that when crayfish were exposed to the chemicals found in commonly used over the counter medications their aggression declined. Aggression is one of the ways that helps the crayfish survive. When some of our lakes in Michigan were tested, these chemicals were found. If you would like help in disposing of medication, call Judy Strickland 231 620-6765 or leave a message at the office.

(2) The average person in the United States contributes EIGHTY pounds of fabric to Land Fills. The motto of Refuse, reuse, recycle can help reduce this number. Refuse to purchase what you do not need. Reuse the fabric in another way. For example, our quilters make bedding into quilts to be used by those in need. Recycle your unwanted fabric by taking it to resale shops for profit or charity such as Acts, Salvation Army, Good Will. If you would like help in getting rid of fabric, call Judy Strickland or leave a message at the office. If there is enough demand, perhaps we could make the church a drop off and distribution site for a short period of time.

(3) It is more difficult for the recycling machines to deal with recyclables in plastic bags than those that are loose. If you take your recyclables to a recycling container, dump them out of the plastic bag. Most recycled materials are clean, allowing you to reuse the bag. This prevents more plastic from invading the environment.

If you have other suggestions that individuals can do to protect God's Creation as we get rid of waste, send them to the office labelled Star We will see that they are shared.

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

You are cordially invited to:

MAVERICK MINDS ALL ARTS FAIR; GIVING BACK

An appreciation of the arts event of gratitude in honor of our school's donors and supporters



Traverse City High School, 3962 Three Mile Rd N, Traverse City, MI 49686

231 933-5860

Thursday, February 27th, 2020, 5-7:30pm

Dinner served 5-6pm in Mitchell Creek Café

All Arts Exhibit 5-7:30pm, Maverick Activity Center

*Be sure to visit our "Appreciation Station"
to receive your choice of a token of gratitude.*

*Mostly, sincere and heartfelt thanks for all that you do to enhance the lives
of the students of Traverse City High School. You are appreciated.*

Thank You!

Ski Trip Pancake Breakfast





**Cooking
for
Safe
Harbor**

Pastor Art and friends fishing during the Children's Message



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	annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Chuck Ardingo, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Leonard Graf, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Tim Fox, Secretary	lsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Katie Fox, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Phil Anderson, Bethlehem Vision	Bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Jan Stretlien, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, 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
Barbara Wright, 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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <p> 30am - Worship Service 45am - Adult Education 45am - Membership & 45am - Sunday School 45am - WELCA Board 10am - Modern Worship - S 11:30pm - Wor. & Mus. 15pm - Confirmation </p>	<div>27</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Gamblers </p>	<div>28</div> <p> 9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 4pm - Drive My Way 6:30pm - Christian Ed Mtg. </p>	<div>29</div> <p> 9:30am - Neighborhood 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way </p>	<div>30</div> <p> 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Worship Team 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir </p>	<div>31</div> <p> Great Lakes Youth 10am - Alanon-LR2 5pm - Worship-S 6pm - Saturday Worship </p>	<div>1</div> <p> 5pm - Celebrate! Worship 5pm - Worship-S </p>
<div>9</div> <p> Great Lakes Youth 30am - Worship Service 45am - Adult Education 45am - Sunday School 10am - Modern Worship - S 11:30pm - Ski Trip </p>	<div>10</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Finance Cmte. 6:30pm - Gamblers </p>	<div>11</div> <p> 9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 12pm - Sarah Circle 1pm - Ruth Circle @ 4pm - Drive My Way 4:30pm - Executive 6pm - Y2A Mtg. </p>	<div>12</div> <p> 9:30am - Neighborhood 2pm - ALS Foundation 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Middle School Night </p>	<div>13</div> <p> 9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Rebecca/Ann Circle 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Worship Team 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir </p>	<div>14</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 6pm - Faith and Family </p>	<div>1</div> <p> 5pm - High School Night 5pm - Worship-S 6pm - Saturday Worship </p>
<div>16</div> <p> 30am - Worship Service 45am - Adult Education 45am - Sunday School 10am - Christensen SG 10am - Modern Worship - S 11:30pm - Monroe SG 15pm - Confirmation </p>	<div>17</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 3pm - Oster SG 4pm - Drive My Way 6pm - Beth. Visisons 6:30pm - Gamblers </p>	<div>18</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>19</div> <p> 9:30am - Neighborhood 3pm - Lessons/Weller 4pm - Drive My Way </p>	<div>20</div> <p> 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Worship Team 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir </p>	<div>21</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Sew Pieceful </p>	<div>2</div> <p> 5pm - Worship-S </p>
<div>23</div> <p> 30am - Worship Service 45am - Adult Education 45am - Sunday School 10am - Modern Worship - S </p>	<div>24</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 10am - Staff Meeting 3pm - Lessons/Weller 6:30pm - Gamblers </p>	<div>25</div> <p> 9am - LWR Quilters 9am - Prayer Shawl 9am - Property Work Group 5:30pm - Book/Supper Club 5:30pm - Newcomers 5:30pm - Worship Renewal </p>	<div>26</div> <p> Ash Wednesday 7pm 9:30am - Neighborhood 1pm - Johnson SG (Offsite) 3pm - Lessons/Weller </p>	<div>27</div> <p> 9am - Baby Pantry-FH 1pm - Lehto SG 5pm - Worship Team 5:30pm - ACOA (LR) 6pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Vocal Choir </p>	<div>28</div> <p> 10am - Alanon-LR2 4pm - Drive My Way 5pm - BLUES </p>	<div>2</div> <p> 1pm - Drive My Way 5pm - Worship-S </p>



REYNOLDS JONKHOFF
Financial Home & Creation Services

305 Sixth St. 947-6347
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 OJ07681

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



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

Our Locations:

Covell Funeral Homes

232 E. State Street
Traverse City, MI 49684

200 N. Brownson Avenue
Kingsley, MI 49649

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

312 Pine Street
Elk Rapids, MI 49629

www.CovellFuneralHomes.com



THE COTTAGE

Comfortable food

Open daily 7am-10pm

472 Munson Ave 231-947-9261



Temperature Control, Inc.

1623 Northern Star Drive • Traverse City, MI 49696
Control Systems • Air Conditioning • Heating
Commercial • Industrial

Phone (231) 922-1862

Monthly donation: 1/16 page \$25; 1/8 \$50; 1/4 \$80. Pay for a year in full---get 1 Month Free Questions??? Please contact Barbara Wright 231-735-3227 or mzbright9006@yahoo.com or Renae Wells at 616-204-8900 or wellsrenae17411@gmail.com. Make checks payable to BLC...put Renae Wells name on envelope.