

July 2026



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 :
Monday – Thursday, 9am to 2:30pm

Worship Times:

Sunday: 10 am Modern Worship with
Traditional service on the 2nd Sunday.
Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube
Sunday School/Adult Education: 9:15am
Nursery open during worship service

Follow the STAR to Bethlehem!

Our Mission:

We worship, work and welcome... Sharing God's love and grace with all.

Our Vision:

Together, we embody our mission by BOLDLY following Jesus, serving the needs of the world and one another, and caring for all of God's Creation. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Greetings! For the last 3 years, July has been a month where I have searched for "sabbath" from the many cares and busyness of the year. Here, in this less cluttered space we can remember the 2023 Sabbatical time we shared at BLC, as well as our need for rest and rejuvenation always.

So the tradition continues...With thanksgiving – for new leaders at BLC, for new possibilities, for upcoming camps and VBS, and for wholeness and rest – I leave you with this passage from Jesus in Matthew gospel, chapter 11: ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

Shalom and be well!

– Pr. Paul

Greetings,

I am honored to write to you as your new BLC Council President. First, I want to extend a sincere thank you to Gail, Tina Dohm, and Maureen Bauer for their many years of dedicated service to the council and our congregation. While Gail will be moving soon, she remains in our hearts and prayers. We are fortunate that Tina and Maureen will continue to be active members of our community.

As I step into this role, I hope to serve this council and church with humility and perseverance. This is an exciting time for BLC, and I look forward to the year ahead. We have many vital projects underway, including strengthening our infrastructure, repairing the basement, updating our equipment, and continuing our mission to serve the community and care for one another. Additionally, as we say farewell to departing staff and seek new talent, we remain committed to tending to the world around us.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

"The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all." — 2 Timothy 4:22

Jana Rockne

Summer is finally here! The New Life Together is having 3 summer activities.

July 10—Tapas at the Goebel's home

July 15---Women's Wine Down Wed

July 19---Pit Spitter game

Sign up sheets and more details will be available.

Coming in the fall we are planning on having an Adult Trivia. Stay tuned for a coming Adult Small Group.

If you have any ideas please let us know. Our group will meet on June 29 at 6:00 and we would welcome anyone who would like to come to please come. If you have any questions please contact;

Peggy Burns 231-392-6913 or Renae Wells 616-204-8900

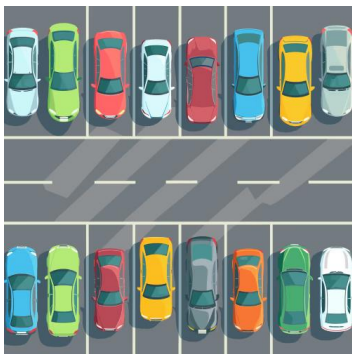
Where 2 or more are gathered in my name. (Matt 18:20)

In our world today there are a lot of things that we need prayer for. Every 4th Tues. starting at 11:00, we will be offering a time and place in church to pray. **There will not be a prayer time in July as the usual date is during VBS. The next date is August 25th..** Please join us. If any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231-392-6913 or

cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com



The Social Ministry/Outreach committee gained approval to have the 4th Sunday of every month dedicated to collecting items for the Food Pantry. For future months, please see the display in the Narthex for items needed and take a flyer for your shopping trip. If everyone could just bring one thing, it would go a long way to fill the closet. This month's date is July 26th. Thank you for your support. Linda Hansen



We are still in need of Volunteers for the Parking Lot Fundraiser!

We have a good amount of adult volunteers for both morning shifts, but we are still in great need of adult volunteers for the evening 4th of July shift! We would also love to have more youth volunteers for all shifts. If you are able to help, sign up in the Narthex or contact Alanna Steffunick-Boomer!

Parking Changes for Worship July 5th - Please note that when you arrive for worship on Sunday, July 5th, only the entrance off of Peninsula Drive will be open for entering and exiting the parking lot! The other entrances/exits will be blocked off for the youth Parking Lot Fundraiser. You do not need to pay for parking to attend worship, but give a wave to our hard working volunteers as you pass by!

Grief Group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 in the gathering space. The group will meet on July 6th and July 20th. Any questions contact Peggy Burns 232-392-6913.

Chair Yoga

meets at 3:00pm
on Mondays. It
is \$5 per class.



New member inserts: please check your mailbox! The current new member insert (except for those just accepted at the end of May) is now there for you to take home and put in your church directory.

Sunday Education News

Sunday School holds class at 9:15am on Sunday throughout the summer..

Sunday Adult Education: During the summer, there will not be a formal class at 9:15am in the Youth Room, however, folks could come and discussion would take its own course whether that be checking in with one another or addressing the lessons for the day.



Tip from the Creation Care group: Smart911 is a safety profile that is free, private and secure. Your information will only be seen if you ever have to call 911. Your information will include people and household info, address and location info, health info and other info about your vehicles, pets, services animals, along with any special notes that you would want responders to know. You can get started on your computer at www.smart911.com or on the Smart911 mobile app. If you have any questions, you can talk to Barbara Oster who has it set up for her house.

August Hike!: The Creation Care group also invites you to a nature hike on the “east side,” with a hike after worship Sunday, 8/23, possibly near Kalkaska. Details to follow!

Trinity Lutheran School will have its 4th Annual “Trinity Tourney” Golf at Elmbrook Golf Course on August 14, 2026. Shotgun start at 9:00am with contests and prizes. For more information or a copy of the brochure, see Barbara Oster in BLC’s office.

Please Note

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Phil works these days through the summer months

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator working in the office on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30am - 12:30pm, and on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 2:30pm on all other weeks. I will also work from home throughout the week.

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$45 (This is a new amount.) The check should be payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On March 8, 2026, we received a check from Olesons for \$294.24. In 2025, we received a total of \$1031.80 from people turning in their Olesons receipts. We will see how well we do this year! Thank you so much to everyone who turned in their Olesons receipts. Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...). The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair or any other grocery store. We just collect for Olesons

New Adventure to the north sponsored by Membership Committee: The membership committee tries to make certain that there is contact with as many members as possible. What about when some of those members live in the U.P.? Those who are interested can go on an adventure! Mark and Kathy McPherson live in Cedarville and now have retirement jobs as local tour guides for some Great Lakes ships. They have graciously offered any BLC members a free tour of Sault Ste Marie as a fall excursion. In the gathering space is a poster board so you can indicate your availability for possible dates (9/26, 10/1, 10/2, 10/3, 10/5, 10/6, 10/7) and preferred activities. John and Judi Block have offered their cabin which is 20 minutes from the Soo if some want to stay overnight rather than make the trip in one day. Judy indicates it can sleep a "bunch" comfortably. **Please indicate available dates by Sunday July 12 so we can confirm with the McPhersons.** Contact Cindy or Jim Monroe if questions.



Bethlehem 's Safe Harbor Summer Service

"Feed My Sheep" – Bethlehem volunteers welcomed, assisted, and served XX Safe Harbor guests on June 23, 24, and 25. Brats, pulled pork, fried chicken with sides, drinks, and dessert. We were supported by Northwoods Soda and Syrup, Great Lakes Potato Chip Company, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling, and Grand Traverse Pie Company. Bethlehem volunteers included Tim Goebel, Peggy Goebel, Kathie Bair, Mark Bair, Sherri Helman, Jim Hutchison, Claire Hutchison, Craig Bauer, Maureen Bauer, John Halstead, Marilyn Halstead, Peggy Burns, Cindy Monroe, Jim Hinds, Diane Cunningham, Bethany Uhl, Kristen Rivard, Laura Okimi, John Snow, Patti Leibenguth, Tina Dohm, Makena Dohm, Lincoln Dohm, Renae Wells, Sue Allen, Linda Hansen, Lindsay Susalski, Parker Busekist, and Pastor Paul Busekist.

We may do additional meals in July and in August. Thanks to all our great volunteers.

Tom Rockne, Bethlehem Safe Harbor Coordinator

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

- Wed 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29**— The Pub TC, Traverse City 7:00pm;
- Sat 7/4, Fri 7/10, 7/24**— Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, 7:00pm
- Sat 7/11**—Bel Lago, Cedar, 3:30pm
- Thurs 7/16**— Mt. Holiday, Traverse City 6:00pm
- Fri 7/17**— The Dam Shop, Elk Rapids, 6:00pm
- Thurs 7/30**— Brady's Bar, Traverse City, 6:30pm

**VBS 2026: Knights & Castles is scheduled for July
27-29 (Mon-Wed),
from 9am-1pm each day!**

VBS is open to kids ages 3-10 and registration is now open - the registration link is on the BLC website (bethlehemtc.org/vacation-bible-school), the BLC Facebook page, and the weekly email. VBS is only possible with the help of many wonderful volunteers (adults and kids age 10+), so please let us know if you would like to help! There are many different volunteer opportunities, including leading groups of kids, helping with activities, decorating and prep, snack preparation, loaning of household items for decorations, donating snacks, and so much more. All are very appreciated and essential to making VBS a success! If you would like to help in any way, please reach out to Alanna at alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org



CHRISTIAN CARE

Wanted to update everyone about what we have been up to. Lindsay Susalski has graciously agreed to lead the delivery of flowers, thank you Lindsay! We have a couple new people to go visit our members who are unable to come to church. All the communion kits are gone and if you could return them here to the church, as we don't have enough kits for everyone to take and keep. I would like to update the list of people who are doing the visits. We are in need of people to help give rides to folks who can't drive and want to come to church service. It is not an every week thing, it would be great if we could have even more! Thank you I am working to have a small group start this fall, more to come sooner. If you would like to join the Christian Care team your would be more than welcome, please see Peggy Burns.



Women's Wine Down Wednesday! Ladies, join us for a chance to wind down mid-week and socialize at Women's Wine Down Wednesday! We will be meeting at Rove Winery (7007 E Traverse Hwy) at 5pm on July 15th. Rove has a wide range of drinks including wine, ciders, mocktails, sodas, seasonal drinks, and non-alcoholic drinks, as well as a selection of small plates. If you have questions, reach out to Amy Haara at (708) 989-8124.

Notes From Alanna

It's VBS Month!

There are many ways to be involved - there's something for everyone!
We appreciate any and all help making VBS a wonderful success!



-Donate Snack Supplies (sign-up lists will be available soon!)

-Lend us household items to use as decorations
(lists will be available soon!)

-Join us for a VBS Prep Work-Bee on July 13 at 6pm!

-Help us decorate the church on July 25 at 10am!

-Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator

Christian Education News July 2026

Heed the call & join VBS this summer!
9am-1pm July 27-29



We're celebrating the Class of 2026 –
Sunday, August 2nd we'll have cake and punch
to recognize our graduates & send them off to college!



Join us at 9:15am every Sunday except July 5th!

Happy Fourth of July!



-Christian Education Committee

ELCA Global Links - Regional Partners - Europe



Twenty-three ELCA missionary households are serving in nine central European countries. Mission personnel in Europe accompany our regional partners in a variety of ministries including education, pastoral leadership, diakonia and social services. This includes working with refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people and persons living in poverty.

Lutherans are a distinct but committed minority in the **Balkans, Hungary, Slovakia** and other areas that were part of the Soviet bloc until 1989. The ELCA accompanies these churches in leadership development, evangelism, education and outreach among minority populations. Examples include projects among marginalized Roma people in Hungary and church leadership programs in **Siberia**. Twenty-five companion synod relationships connect European churches and ELCA synods and congregations.



Farewell Appreciation for Gail Goldsmith before she moves to Clare, MI to be closer to family.

We will miss you Gail!

BLC Hikers at Empire Bluff
Join us for our next hike later in the summer.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Baptism - Johnny 10am - Worship Service 1pm - Community Meal at 3:30pm - Burial - Dale 7pm - TC Sings!	3pm - Chair Yoga 6pm - Creation Care 6pm - New Life Meeting	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work 11am - Fall Synod	11:30am - Music 5pm - Parking Lot usage	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSE 5:30pm - ACA	6pm - LifeRing Recovery	HAPPY BIRTHDAY 11am - Parking Lot 1pm - Parking lot usage 6:30pm - Parking Lot
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9am - Parking Lot 9:15am - Adult Education 10am - Worship Service	3:30pm - Grief Group	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work 10:45am - Staff Meeting 1pm - 1pm Conference 6:30pm - VBS Volunteer	11:30am - Music	9am - Cherry Fest 5:30pm - ACA	6pm - LifeRing Recovery	8pm - AA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Stony Lake Camp						
9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Traditional 11:15am - Worship &	11am - Finance Cmte. 3pm - Chair Yoga 6pm - VBS Prep Work-Bee	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work 1pm - Friendship Bible 6pm - Y2A/Christian Ed 6:30pm - Executive	11:30am - Music 5pm - Women's Wine	9am - Baby Pantry Setup 10am - Baby Pantry-FH 5:30pm - ACA	STAR articles due today 10am - Sew Pieceful 6pm - LifeRing Recovery	8pm - AA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Craft Show 1pm - BLC at Pit Splitters	3pm - Chair Yoga 3:30pm - Grief Group	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work 6:30pm - Council Meeting 6:30pm - Freedom	FREEDOM BUILDERS			
			11:30am - Music	5:30pm - ACA	6pm - LifeRing Recovery	10am - VBS Decorating 8pm - AA
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY 9:15am - Adult Education 9:15am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 1pm - Community Meal at	VBS 9:00-1:30 3pm - Chair Yoga	Bulletin articles due today 9am - Property Work	11:30am - Music	5:30pm - ACA	6pm - LifeRing Recovery	8pm - AA

Health Concerns*



The Power of Prayer

*Mary Woodring, Jerry Hill,
Richard Fernholz, Lee,
Judy Fenton, Julie Lapeer, Lynn,
Cindy Hitesman, Pr. Zack Nelson,
John Stretlien, Harper Wiemerslage,
Roy DuMond, Cheryl, Patti, Sharon,
Julie Barrett, Steve, Christine,
Sherry, John Block, Bob, Pat Burton,
Norm Fred, Chris, Shelley Miller,
Kyle, Janet, Cheryl, Pat, Gretchen,
Matthew, Mike & Fredricka*

G. T. Pavilions: Shelley Miller

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 or email admin@bethlehemtc.org

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 (or call the office for a copy:

bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes

BLC Contacts

Church Office

Pastor Paul Busekist	paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org
Admin. Asst., Barbara Oster	admin@bethlehemtc.org
Bookkeeper, Phil Anderson	bookkeeper@bethlehemtc.org
Anthony Bero, Music Director	bero.tony@gmail.com
Alanna Steffunick-Boomer, Ministry Coordinator	Alanna.Steffunick@bethlehemtc.org
Website	www.bethlehemtc.org

Church Council

Jana Rockne, President	president.council@bethlehemtc.org
Bethany Uhl, Vice President	vicepresident.council@bethlehemtc.org
Nancy Pflasterer, Secretary	secretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Dave Peppler, Treasurer	treasurer.council@bethlehemtc.org
Jim Monroe, Financial Sec.	financialsecretary.council@bethlehemtc.org
Peggy Burns, Christian Care Giving	christiancaregiving.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Christian Ed.	christianeducation.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Dave Peppler, Fellowship	fellowship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
John Halstead, Membership/Evangelism	membershipevangelism.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Doug Cunningham, Property	property.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Personnel	personnel.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Jana Rockne, Safety & Security	
Bethany Uhl, Stewardship	stewardship.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Denice Bossardet, Worship and Music	worshipmusic.committee@bethlehemtc.org
, Youth/Y2A	youth.committee@bethlehemtc.org
Mark Fornwall, Constitution	
Scott Sorenson, Council Member	
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).

Lots of cool information inside
Pr Paul's Page
Council President's notes
Council officers and committee liaisons
Book Club News
Monthly Prayer Time
Safe Harbor This Month
Notes from Alanna with Knights & Castles at VBS
Monthly Parking Lot Fundraiser
Christian Education News
Creation Care News
Smart911
New Life Together
ELCA Global Links
The Power of Prayer
Church Calendar
And much more!

